

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 261, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HONORING ALBERT GONZALEZ

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in Colorado's Latino community, Albert Gonzales. Mr. Gonzales is the president of Gonzales Consulting Services which he founded in 1990. After 15 years in business, Gonzales Consulting Services has 250 employees who provide financial management, support services, information technology, and emergency security communications to clients in nine States. Having realized extraordinary success in his own business endeavors, Albert finds time now to mentor small businesses with their growth and development.

By any measure, Albert Gonzales is a true American success story. He is not only a leading entrepreneur in Colorado, he is raising his family and contributing to the larger community.

In fact, he has focused much of his life to giving back to his community—particularly to the Latino community. In 1992, Albert Gonzales founded the Colorado Democratic Latino Initiative, the first initiative of its kind in Colorado. The Latino Initiative has given many Hispanic Coloradans a means for more effective participation in politics within the Democratic Party. The initiative has provided training and information on issues that affect the community and has been a model for political involvement across our region, including similar efforts by the Republican Party. As a result, there has been a tangible increase in the participation in the political process by Colorado Latinos. That participation shows itself in more than just Latinos exercising their right to vote. Many have been given the tools and encouragement necessary to run for public office.

Although Albert is a committed Democrat, his partisan affiliation is not why I rise to acknowledge his leadership. Albert's real contribution to Colorado is in his work as a businessman, as a mentor, and as a person of conscience and good will.

As a decision maker and political leader, Albert Gonzales has shown how important it is for Latinos to occupy positions of power in policy making—particularly as this community continues to grow and influence the culture, politics and economy of the West. Although Albert will retire from the Colorado Democratic Initiative Board this year, I have no doubt that he will continue to work in other ways and with the same passion, intelligence and commitment for this community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Albert Gonzales for his commitment toward elevating the Latino community's influence in the public arena—a worthy objective that cuts across partisan lines and serves to strengthen our democratic process.

RECOGNIZING MASTER JOHN BACHKOSKY FOR HIS ACT OF HEROISM

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the act of heroism displayed by Master John Bachkosky on August 18, 2004. John, a Webelos Scout of Cub Scout Pack 688, demonstrated both determination and heroism by saving the lives of his sister Robin, and friend, Morgan at minimum risk to himself.

The 6-year-old girls were playing in the waves of Ocean City, Maryland, when they became caught in a rip tide. John was nearby and had an opportunity to swim to shallow water. However, as a genuine Scout would, he acted courageously by swimming to where the girls were. He then held them up until help arrived.

John's vigilance and instincts prevented the girls from any serious injury. The Boy Scouts of America upon recommendation of the National Court of Honor presented John with a Heroism Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in commending Master John Bachkosky for adhering to the Core Values of Cub Scouting, displayed through his Courage, Perseverance, and Responsibility. His actions are evidence of the principles of the Boy Scouts of America.

CALLING ATTENTION TO CUSHING'S DISEASE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw both the House and the Nation's attention to Cushing's disease: a disease that debilitates, degenerates, and devastates the lives of 10 to 15 million people a year.

Yet despite the grievous nature of this disease, it has gained little attention from the general public as well as medical advocates across the country.

Cushing's disease is caused by the body's overproduction of cortisol, the hormone that serves a number of imperative functions such as sugar break down, metabolism regulation, inflammation reduction, maintenance of blood pressure and cardiovascular function, and regulation of the body's response to stress.

Unfortunately, the severity of the disease is also coupled with a high degree of unfamiliarity with its symptoms among victims and doctors alike. These circumstances prove highly dangerous as it is frequently misdiagnosed.

This illness comes in various yet equally grievous forms in which its myriad of symptoms are easily confused with other diseases, conditions, and disorders. Some of the most commonly experienced symptoms include rapid weight gain, central obesity, moon face, weakness, fatigue, backache, headache, increased urination, impotence, neuropsychological disorders, muscle atrophy, stretch marks,

osteoporosis, high blood pressure, and uncontrolled diabetes.

Failure to properly and aggressively treat Cushing's disease quickly can lead to fatal consequences.

Recently, Ms. Stephanie Womack-Gilchrist, my constituent in the 8th District of New Jersey, shared with me the story of her excruciating battle with this rare and relatively unknown disease. She has endured a 7-year battle with the illness in which she subsequently experienced sporadic hospitalization, comas, seizures, and a miscarriage.

Additionally, she was diagnosed with diabetes, suffered from depression, broke both feet due to the severity of her osteoporosis, developed a tumor on her pituitary, and had to endure radiation treatment. Her symptoms baffled various doctors and specialists for 3 years before her original internist identified her affliction as Cushing's disease. Yet, despite this horrific ordeal, Stephanie has persevered.

This resilient woman contacted me in an effort to raise awareness about Cushing's Disease. And I stand here today to educate my colleagues on the severity of this disease in order to help her and others suffering from this disease to promote a wide-spread understanding of it.

After enduring the absolute havoc that Cushing's wreaked on her life, Ms. Womack-Gilchrist has allied herself with the organization, Cushing's Understanding Support Help (CUSH). This organization is leading the charge in raising the level of public awareness about this debilitating disease.

Their website provides comprehensive information about the causes, symptoms, and consequences of Cushing's Disease, and strives to promote a wide understanding of all the elements of this illness. It also provides information on ways to reach out to patients and their families and offers a Chat Night every Wednesday.

In addition, CUSH posts opportunities to participate in symptoms studies and various other medical research. They also have an interactive message board on which they post international events, recent news, biographies of CUSH founders and patients, and relevant web casts and video footage, among other things. Such efforts work to not only inform and support those with the affliction, but to globally implement a much needed, education campaign.

It is our duty as the legislative leaders of this Nation to respond to all those who are and who will be affected by Cushing's.

I urge Congress to recognize the detrimental effects of this agonizing illness and emphatically encourage my colleagues to help promote awareness and understanding of Cushing's Disease.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION-EAST BAY CHAPTER TRIBUTE CELEBRATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague and neighbor Ms. BARBARA LEE to pay tribute to the celebrations planned by the

United Nations Association, East Bay Chapter to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations. Events have been planned in the city of Alameda, California and Jack London Square in Oakland, California.

At Jack London Square, there will be a Parade of Nations, a 60th Anniversary Ceremony, International Food Festival, Multi-Cultural Musical and Dance Performance as well as children's and family activities.

United Nations celebratory activities in Alameda will be held in Kofman Auditorium and will feature a participatory experience of song, dance and inspiration for Alameda's children, families and all who, as global citizens, dream of a better and united world. The event will be a springboard to think globally and act locally in the spirit of the United Nations.

The United Nations Association-East Bay Chapter describes membership in their organization as a personal investment in the world's future. Their members stay involved in some of the most important issues facing our world today.

We applaud these committed members as they plan and participate in the activities to celebrate the United Nations' 60th Anniversary in the East Bay. Their engagement and involvement to educate and involve the public in UN activities and their promotion of UN principles are exemplary.

HONORING MR. NORM SOOY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and honor Norm Sooy, this year's recipient of the Excellence in Customer Service Award given by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. This award is given to providers of great customer service for veterans. Moreover, it identifies individuals who go above and beyond the scope of their normal duties. For sixteen years, Norm has managed a tremendous caseload as Director of the Camden County Department of Veterans Affairs, and repeatedly volunteers his own time on nights and weekends in order to better serve Camden County veterans.

Norm Sooy is a pillar in my community, an esteemed colleague, and above all a close friend. New Jersey is blessed to have such a selfless and hard working champion for veterans. I offer my sincere gratitude to him for his dedication, as I am sure veterans across Camden County do as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on House Resolution 457, recognizing National Chemistry Week, and House Resolution 491, supporting National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both resolutions.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF SIMON WIESENTHAL

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 248, a resolution to honor the life and work of Simon Wiesenthal and reaffirm the commitment of Congress to fight against anti-Semitism and intolerance in all forms, in all forums, and in all nations.

On September 20, 2005, the world lost a true hero—a voice for those souls who could not speak and a witness against those criminals who sought to go unnoticed.

After surviving the Holocaust himself, Simon Wiesenthal devoted his life to seeking justice for the six million Jews who were systematically murdered at the hands of the Nazis, including 89 members of his family.

Through sheer perseverance and determination, he hunted those who committed the most heinous acts—helping capture and ultimately convict more than 1,000 war criminals, including Adolf Eichman. He found the killers who ruined his youth, exterminated his people and displayed their evils before the eyes of the world.

Simon Wiesenthal did not ask that the world never forget the Holocaust; he demanded it. And we, as leaders of the most powerful and just nation in the world, have an obligation to carry out Simon Wiesenthal's legacy.

We must continue to investigate and bring to justice perpetrators of the Holocaust, as well as those who have engaged in acts of genocide in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia and the Sudan, to show the world that those guilty cannot hide in the shadows.

We must work to end anti-Semitism and intolerance in the United States to prevent the spread of hatred that has led to so much undue evil.

And we must educate our children about the Holocaust to ensure that future generations understand the evils that can befall humanity and appreciate the righteous figures who can emerge from it, like Simon Wiesenthal.

THE KEYCORP CAMPUS OF BROOKLYN, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the staff members of the KeyCorp Campus, located on Tiedeman Road in Brooklyn, Ohio, upon their recent designation as a certified Green Building by the U.S. Green Building Council, USGBC. KeyCorp is the first financial service institution in the Midwest to earn this prestigious certification.

KeyCorp has joined the ranks of premier corporations and manufacturers across the Nation that have invested their own resources to elevate the structural, operational and performance components of their facilities to the highest levels of environmental standards. The 2,000 plus staff at KeyCorp has worked dili-

gently within the USGBC's new rating system, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings, LEED, to become an officially designated Green Building.

By adhering to LEED systems and standards, KeyCorp has restored their 750,000-square-foot technology and operations buildings and adjacent property to an environmentally sound haven for employees and surrounding flora and fauna. The campus was built on a brownfield site, which has been renewed with water-efficient, native landscaping. KeyCorp made the commitment to implement environmentally smart procedures which served as economically smart moves for the company. By installing low-mercury light bulbs, recycling paper and cardboard, greater usage of natural light, and using green-friendly housekeeping and maintenance products, the company is protecting their bottom line and protecting the environment as well.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the leadership and staff members of the KeyCorp Tiedeman Campus in Brooklyn, Ohio, whose united efforts in raising the entire Campus into the light of environmental restoration and protection has earned them the official designation as a Green Building. KeyCorp's unified mission has made a positive impact on our community and serves as a vital reminder and example of the ability of the human race to coexist in harmony with our natural world.

COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP OF KYRGYZ PRESIDENT BAKIYEV IN EFFORTS TO FIGHT TERRORISM

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important contribution Kyrgyz Republic President Kurmanbek Bakiyev is making in supporting United States and Coalition Forces in our mission to fight terrorism in Afghanistan.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has just concluded a visit with President Bakiyev in the Kyrgyz Republic's capitol of Bishkek. On October 11, 2005, Secretary Rice and President Bakiyev issued a "Joint Statement of the United States of America and the Kyrgyz Republic on the Presence of the U.S. Military in the Region." I ask that the full statement be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Bakiyev's leadership in making this courageous commitment to provide the United States and Coalition Forces access to the Manas air base. This agreement provides certainty at a time when there is great uncertainty in the region. This new U.S.-Kyrgyz agreement follows a statement released July 5, 2005, by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization comprised of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, requesting a timetable for U.S. troop withdrawal in the region due to the lessening of operations in Afghanistan. The U.S.-Kyrgyz agreement also comes at a critical time for our military presence in the region, in light of neighboring Uzbekistan's decision to deny the U.S. access to a key military base which has been used for